

Peoples' Voice Today: Voice in the Wilderness?

"It is evident that the unique form of government capable of answering requirements of social state is the one which the whole people takes part in; that any form of people's participation in discharge of even the less significant social duties is useful; that everywhere this participation should be as mass as it is allowed by a level of self-consciousness of a certain community; and that there is nothing as preferable as distribution of the supreme state power among everyone. But on the grounds that all members of the community that outnumbers a small town are able to participate personally only in a very insignificant part of public concerns, the ideal type of a perfect government is the representative government". Long ago in 1861 this was written by John Stuart Mill. And until recently at the "age of indisputable triumph of Liberal Democracy", it is representative government that is customary accepted as the only way to realize the democratic form of a governmental structure by the countries professing this ideology. Indeed, it is impossible to attain so fervently desirable by every country, which consider itself to be modern and progressive, an ideal of democratic state without realizing the basic principle of Democracy, i.e. public control over the procedure of taking governmental resolutions. It goes without saying that fulfillment of this requirement on such a large scale as the whole country is incredibly difficult and, to a certain extent, totally impossible. It can seem that an effective formula of accomplishment of the Democracy ideal – people's governing. But let us try to find out what general elections essentially are like nowadays.

A well-known fact is that society is characterized as an informational one, where it is information that becomes a dominating mean of social control, including various mass-media, advertising, opinion polls, statistics and all things of this kind, that compose a so-called "public opinion". Having been involved to this game of mass-media and sociological opinion polls functioning by a simplified scheme "question-reply", when no one has to produce his/her own opinion anymore, its necessary just to **reproduce** public opinion (meaning, that personal opinions instill into this distinctive universal equivalent and spring from it anew on the level of individual choice, irrespective of an attitude to it), political facts lose their specific character. General elections is the first media. Electoral Democracy is the first social institute, where everything is reduced to a simple answer already predicted by the question.

The main principle of Democracy is somewhat different nowadays, even diametrically opposite: elections turned into something compulsory. In this point, after trying out all the other repressive methods to provide a quorum, Athens Democracy, much more advanced than ours, pretty logically came up to the idea that participation in elections should be payed for as well as public service. Essentially elections become casual: having achieved a high stage of formal development, Democracy stabilizes its indexes around approximately equal ratio (50/50). Elections are reduced to a calculating probabilities in such a way as if each one would vote by guess-work, as if monkies would vote.

Therefore that is absolutely unimportant whether the parties, that really exist, express something in historical and social plane or not; they would rather do not represent anything.

Still within "classical" general right to vote it was possible to distinguish between representatives and represented on a background of a real opinion confrontation in the society. Today, when this contradictive aspect of policy has been abolished, when public opinion became an equivalent of itself, when it is coordinated and equalized beforehand through opinion polls, the interchange of supreme bureaucrats became possible, as well as visibility of opposition of parties and mutual absorption of their goals.